

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02813 211458Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAB-02 /059 W

-----211504Z 045086 /50

P R 211420Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1574

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2813

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ COMMENTS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS:
VARIATIONS ON A THEME?

REF: PANAMA 2314

1. APRIL 20 EDITION OF PRO-GOP "MATUTINO" FRONTPAGES
PRENSA LATINA AND UPI COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT PEREZ'
APRIL 19 PRESS CONFERENCE. HEADLINED IS PEREZ' STATEMENT
THAT "THE CANAL IS PANAMA'S -- THIS IS A REALITY THAT
MUST BE RECOGNIZED". THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT CONCERNING
THE DELAY IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY,
ACCORDING TO UPI WAS "IF A DECISION IS NOT MADE NOW
(TO CONCLUDE A NEW TREATY), THE U.S. WILL BE
SORRY LATER ON." PRENSA LATINA VERSION CONTAINS
STRONGER LANGUAGE: "I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A
DIFFICULT DECISION, BUT IF IT IS NOT TAKEN NOW, THE
U.S. WILL BE SORRY LATER, BECAUSE IT WILL BE
FACED WITH MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02813 211458Z

2. PEREZ' REMARKS, AS REPORTED HERE, MERELY REITERATED
HIS PREVIOUS POSITION ON THE SUBJECT. NEVERTHELESS,
HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
"DELAY" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS REINFORCES THE PERCEPTION
OF PANAMANIAN (SEE REFTEL) THAT IT IS OUR MOVE IF
AGREEMENT IS TO BE REACHED ON A NEW TREATY. THIS
PERCEPTION WAS VIGOROUSLY EXPRESSED IN AN

EDITORIAL IN SEMI-INDEPENDENT "LA ESTRELLA" ON
APRIL 18. GIST OF THE EDITORIAL IS THAT "13 YEARS
OF DELAYS, POSTPONEMENT AND OBFUSCATIONS IN THE
NEGOTIATION OF A NEW TREATY HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE
OF TENSION AND UNCERTAINTY AMONG RESIDENTS OF PANAMA
(INCLUDING THE CANAL ZONE). THIS EXPLOSIVE CLIMATE
COULD BE DETONATED BY A RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT INCIDENT.
THEREFORE, THE SITUATION SHOULD BE DEFUSED BY
COMPLETING THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW TREATY. EARLY
AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ACCEPTING
THE POSITION PROPOSED BY PANAMA, A POSITION THAT IS
JUST, BALANCED, COMPREHENSIVE AND REASONABLE."

3. PRO-GOP "CRITICA" RECYCLED THE TEXT OF "ESTRELLA"
ITEM IN ITS APRIL 19 EDITORIAL, PROCLAIMING ITS
COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND REITERATING TORRIJOS STATEMENT
THAT "IN 1977 THE U.S. RUNS OUT OF EXCUSES AND
PANAMA RUNS OUT OF PATIENCE."

4. COMMENT: PROMINENT PLAY GIVEN PEREZ' REMARKS
AND "LA ESTRELLA" EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ERSA
PRESS PROBABLY REFLECTS GOP'S DESIRE TO LEGITIMIZE
ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PLACE THE ONUS FOR LACK
OF PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE U.S.
"LA ESTRELLA'S" GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL MOOD
AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE DILATORY PROGRESS OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS IS A DEPARTURE FROM ITS NORMAL POLICY OF
EXPRESSING CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM.

JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 02813 211458Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, CANALS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA02813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-1191
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770434/aaaabcks.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a55030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 2314
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2737735
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ COMMENTS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: VARIATIONS ON A THEME?
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, CO, US, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a55030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009